

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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R 171200Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6485

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PLO, KING HASSAN CONSULT ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: RABAT 4350, 4454

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DISCUSSED BY KING HASSAN AND PLO POLITICAL OFFICER ABU LUTF DURING LATTER'S VISIT HERE SEPTEMBER 15. FOLLOWING MEETING, LOCAL RADIO CARRIED GENERALLY POSITIVE ABU LUTF STATEMENT WHICH NOTED KING'S "GREAT CONCERN" FOR PALESTINIANS. KING, HE SAID, "PROMISED TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS IN THIS FIELD. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HIS GREAT INTEREST.....AND HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE...IS EVIDENT IN THE STEPS HE HAS TAKEN AND WILL TAKE IN THE FUTURE."

2. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SOURCE TELLS US VISIT WAS, IN HIS VIEW,
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UNEXCEPTIONAL SINCE ABU LUTF WAS RETURNING FROM CUBA AND RABAT

ROUTINE STOP FOR HIM. SUBJECT HAD TO BE MENTIONED PUBLICLY, BUT PLO'S EVIDENTLY REASONABLE SATISFACTION WITH KING'S POSITION ON 2ND ACCORD PROBABLY OCCASIONED BY EARLIER CONTACTS, EGYPTIAN SAID. KING'S WHOLE APPROACH TO PRESENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, SOURCE SUMMED UP, A CLEVER AND SUCCESSFUL BALANCING ACT.

3. COMMENT: ON FACE OF IT, KING APPEARS TO HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH RELATIVELY STRONG SUPPORT FOR SADAT WITHOUT SEVERELY DAMAGING HIS CAREFULLY CULTIVATED TIES WITH THE PLO. NOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THE APPARENT PLO ACQUIESCENCE IN HIS POSITION CAN SOFTEN CONTINUING OPPOSITION PARTY CRITICISM HERE.
COON

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